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Richard C. Bridges to his sister, 5 May 1863

Richard C. Bridges

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Bovina Station May the 5th 1863

Dear Sister. Through the mercies & blessings of God, I can say that I am alive and well. I have been in another Terrible battle. The engagement was on last Friday. The enemy drove in our pickets about 3 o'clock in the morning at which time our Artillery started commencing and lasted till three & a half. In the morning fighting commenced with small arms. We only had two Brigades of men about six thousand. The enemy had at least 20,000. We fought them bravely till ~~half~~ eleven o'clock when they began to outflank us and we had to give way to superior force. We fell back a mile and met reinforcements and took another stand.

We held that position till night
and retreated in cover of night.
Our Regt came very near being cut
off and taken prisoners.
They are still advancing on us
we have just landed here a few
minutes ago. I am very tired.
We will have a big fight here
before many days. I want you to
send this letter to William forthwith
for I have not time to write
to him. you had better write
soon for male communication
may be cut off. I may not
get to send you any other
letter for some time. But
Dear Sister, don't suffer your
self to be uneasy about me.
for God is with me, His blood
that bears me up under all my
hard ships, His that comforts

me in all my troubles and tis
He that Brings me through all danger
and I love to praise His Name.
I would like to hear from home,
I have not received a letter from
any of you since I left. I want
to hear from D. & Truett.
Tell Cousin Mat I have not receiv-
ed her letter yet. You write soon.
Tell Cousin Mat I will write to
her as soon as I get time.
I heard that the Yankees paid
you a visit through that Section of
country not long since and burn
and plundered as they went.
Let them do the worst they can.
Tis only strengthening our cause.
don't you become too much alarmed.
They will not murder women and
children. But they will kill them
of what they have to eat.

We are getting reinforcements here
and we will give you a good
account of them Sunday.
Tell Cousin Mat to write to
me, she is in debt to me and
better say so, We had the
men killed in our company
of the 1st Regt. 10th St. Inf.

Both the Jimmie & Boys
were wounded several times
during the battle. Marion Pierce's
one of them I don't know
if he was ordered to leave there
good bye

Richard